

## OFFICIAL LITERATURE IN CHINA.

A writer in "The Chinese Times," of Tientsin, discussing the contents of "The Pekin Gazette," says that the usual documents are remarkable. The Imperial proclamations especially are always composed in the finest style, and it often happens that papers of moment are written with extreme beauty and perfectness of composition, vivid with grace and majesty of language." Every year similar reports these rare merits are to be seen in the closeness of style, fitness of expression, clearness, and condensation; and where analysis, or reasoning, or precise judgment is to be presented, the papers show the hands of a master. The Chinese divinity of style is what would strike the mind of a foreign inquirer; some treat of high politics and of great events; others deal with crimes, questions of disputed inheritance; others again are the reports of commissioners appointed to investigate cases of corruption in the public service, and to show "true analysis, figures, and history of detail, and untiring labor." The writer thinks that, judging of what is known of "the slow ways, the enforced secrecy, circumspection, or reasoning, or precise judgment" is to be presented, the papers show the hands of a master.

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## SOME OLD MISTRANSLATIONS.

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